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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAJ-01 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-14 AF-10 SAM-01

DRC-01 AID-20 /167 W
---------- 085301
R 091532Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9935
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USUN NEW YORK 417
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, AG, MR
SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA

REF MADRID 5296

1. ON SEPTEMBER 7, GOS PUBLISHED A NOTE ELABORATING

ON ITS AUG 22 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WILL HOLD ITS
LONG-PROMISED REFERENDUM IN SPANISH SAHARA DURING THE
FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1974 (REFTEL).

2. NEW NOTE, ISSUED BY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL IN THE
PRESIDENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR SAHARAN AFFAIRS, EMPHASIZES
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FOLLOWING SEVEN POINTS: (1) GOS COMMITMENT TO SELF-
DETERMINATION; (2) GOS DETERMINATION TO COMPLY WITH

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DUTY, UNDER UN RESOLUTIONS, TO HOLD COMPLETELY FREE
REFERENDUM NOTWITHSTANDING DEMANDS OF OTHER COUNTRIES
WHICH CONTRADICT PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION;
(3) GOS ACCEPTANCE AND RECOGNITION OF NEED TO MAINTAIN
CLOSE CONTACTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN SAHARA
QUESTION, WITHOUT PREJUDICE, HOWEVER, TO ITS INSISTENCE
THAT ONLY NATIVE PEOPLE OF THE SAHARA ARE ENTITLED TO
CHOOSE OWN DESTINY; (4) SPAIN HAS DUTY AS ADMINISTRATIVE
GUARDIAN TO OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPTS AGAINST SAHARA'S TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY; (5) PROOF OF GOS INTENTION IS PARTICIPATION OF NATIVE
PEOPLE IN DECISION-MAKING SINCE 1967 BY MEANS OF
SAHARAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH WAS CONSULTED PRIOR TO
GOS DECISION TO HOLD REFERENDUM; (6) GOS SOCIOECONOMIC
POLICIES HAVE CREATED NECESSARY CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH
SAHARANS WILL BE ABLE TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE (THIS
SECTION OF NOTE CONTAINS LENGTHY ENUMERATION
OF SPANISH ACTIVITIES IN FIELDS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH,
PUBLIC WORKS, AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT,
AND LAYS PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON MINERAL EXPLOITATION
AND TERRITORY'S BRIGHT PHOSPHATE PROSPECTS); AND
(7) CONCLUSION THAT ALL GOS ACTIONS IN TERRITORY HAVE BEEN
INSPIRED BY WISH TO CREATE SATISFACTORY CONDITIONS FROM
WHICH SAHARANS CAN RESOLVE THEIR OWN DESTINY.

3. COMMENT: GOS PUBLICATION THIS NOTE APPEARS TO
BE TIMED TO PUT SPAIN'S CASE ON SAHARA IN BEST POSSIBLE
LIGHT IN ANTICIPATION OF FORTHCOMING UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SESSION. NOTE ALSO AIMED AT APPEASING SPANISH MEDIA
REPRESENTATIVES, WHO IMPATIENT WITH RESTRICTIONS
ON COVERAGE OF SAHARA AND HAVE BEEN PRESSING GOVERNMENT
FOR SOME RESPONSE TO MILITANT RHETORIC COMING OUT OF RABAT IN
RECENT WEEKS. STATEMENT SEEKS REASSURE PUBLIC THAT
GOVERNMENT FIRMLY COMMITTED TO ORDERLY POLICY OF
DECOLONIZATION DESPITE OUTSIDE PRESSURES, BUT TO
REMIND OTHER INTERESTED STATES IT STILL COMMITTED TO CLOSE
CONSULTATIONS ON PROCESS. ALTHOUGH NOTE IS ALSO
SUPPOSED TO CLARIFY AND ELABORATE ON GOS AUGUST
COMMUNICATION TO UN SECGEN ANNOUNCING SAHARAN REFERENDUM
DURING FIRST HALF OF 1975, IT GIVES NO CLUE
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WHATSOEVER TO KEY QUESTIONS OF WHOM WILL BE ALLOWED TO
PARTICIPATE IN REFERENDUM OR WHAT OPTIONS WILL BE POSED
IN VOTING.
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